

1997
RECORD LINKAGE
WORKSHOP



March 20-21, 1997



**DoubleTree Hotel
300 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202**

The Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences, the Washington Statistical Society, the Bureau of the Census, the National Agricultural Statistical Service, National Center for Health Statistics, National Science Foundation, the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, and The George Washington University are sponsoring a two-day workshop on record linkage in Washington, D.C.

The only previous major U.S. record linkage workshop (in 1985) resulted in a widely cited proceedings. Much has been accomplished in recent years and new areas of related research have arisen. A sampling of these would include the increased privacy concerns due to record linkage, the growing importance of more efficient use of statistical resources by using record linkage, heightened interest in linkage technology due to debates such as health care reform, issues in physical security of data, and the measurement of nondisclosure and reidentification risks in public use microdata files.

Record linkage involves the merging and unduplication of lists that may be used as survey frames or in conjunction with administrative files. Duplicates are a major source of error, are often not accounted for in quantitative analyses, and are very expensive to deal with during or after data collection. Computerized record linkage concepts were introduced by Newcombe in the 1950's and mathematically formalized by Fellegi and Sunter in a classic 1969 paper in the Journal of the American Statistical Association. Modern record linkage is practical because of new methods and software that have extended standard algorithms or introduced new algorithms in statistics, computer science, and operations research.

The web page for the workshop is <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/reclink>. We will have current and more complete information.

For questions contact Fritz Scheuren, 1402 Ruffner Road, Alexandria 22302. You may use e-mail if you wish <scheuren@aol.com>. He can be also reached at 703-549-1120 (voice) or 703-549-1119 (FAX). Questions can also be directed to Bill Winkler (301-457-4729 (voice), 301-457-2299 (FAX) or <bwinkler@census.gov>.

Workshop Organizing Committee

Fritz Scheuren, Chair, Ernst and Young
William E. Winkler, Co-chair, Bureau of the Census
Wendy Alvey, Statistics of Income, IRS
John Armstrong, Elections Canada
Charles Day, National Agricultural Statistical Service
John Tucker, National Academy of Sciences
Laura Zayatz, Bureau of the Census

Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, March 20

8:30-11:30 a.m. Tutorial on Record Linkage by Martha Fair and Patricia Whitridge, Statistics Canada.

1:00-2:00 p.m. Keynote Address. Ivan Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada

2:15-5:45 p.m. Invited and contributed paper sessions (concurrent)

Friday, March 21

8:30-11:45 a.m. Invited and contributed paper sessions (concurrent). Possible software demos.

1:15-5:00 p.m. Invited and contributed paper sessions (concurrent). Software demonstrations.

Martha Fair has been involved in the development of Statistics Canada's generalized record linkage system, has carried out epidemiological applications using record linkage, and has helped organize several very well received workshops on the topic. Patricia Whitridge has been involved in the application of record linkage to economic lists, including the Canadian Census of Agriculture.

We presently have commitments from the following invited speakers:

Ivan Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada

Katherine Wallman, Chief Statistician of the U.S., OMB

Martha Fair, Statistics Canada

Patricia Whitridge, Statistics Canada

Thomas Belin, UCLA

Donald Rubin, Harvard

Michael Larsen, Stanford

Fritz Scheuren, Ernst and Young

William Winkler, Bureau of the Census

Leicester Gill, Oxford University

Eleanor Singer, University of Michigan

Michael Meyer, Carnegie-Mellon University

John Charlton, Office of National Statistics, UK

John Van Voorhis, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago

Philip Steel, Bureau of the Census

Christian Houle, Statistics Canada

Jenny Wahl, St. Olaf College

Selma Kunnitz, Kunnitz and Associates

Abstracts are available. They can be mailed or e-mailed at your request or you can view them on the web page <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/reclink>. Link to the document [reclink.html](http://www.census.gov/srd/www/reclink.html).

The web page also has a listing of general references about record linkage. Some of the references are readily available in journals such as the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. Other references can be viewed at the web site or can be mailed or e-mailed.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
1997 RECORD LINKAGE WORKSHOP
MARCH 20-21, 1997

Lodging: The workshop will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel National Airport in Arlington, VA. Registrants are responsible for their own lodging arrangements. **A special workshop rate of \$112.98 for single and \$132.98 for double occupancy, plus tax, per day, is available until February 19.** The DoubleTree Hotel is ideally situated in the Crystal City corridor, just minutes from the nation's capital and major business centers. A complimentary shuttle is provided to the Pentagon and Crystal City offices, National Airport and shopping. The D.C. Metro, just two blocks away, can take you to our nation's famous museums and monuments. **Reservations must be guaranteed** by advance payment (U.S. check, international money order, or credit card) before February 19, 1997. **Reservations made after February 19 will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only.** Call or write the Reservations Manager, DoubleTree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202 (703-416-4100 voice, -4126 FAX). Be sure to mention the Census Bureau's 1997 Record Linkage Workshop.

Workshop Fee: The workshop fee includes the published Proceedings Volume. Daily or reduced rates for partial attendance are not available. **Registration before February 15 is \$50. Registration after February 15 is \$60. Registration for contributed papers is \$40.**

Your registration form, credit card information, U.S. check, or international money order, made payable to "Commerce-Census," should be mailed to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943.

Direct all questions to Maxine Anderson-Brown, Workshop Coordinator, Administrative and Customer Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233 (301-457-2308). Workshop fees are nonrefundable after February 15.

Space is limited. Early registration is encouraged.

Please direct requests for sign language interpretation or auxiliary aids to Maxine Anderson-Brown on 301-457-2308. The location of this workshop is physically accessible to persons with disabilities.

Atlanta, GA 30384-7943

